

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-02 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-20 SP-02
SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NRC-07 GSA-02 /147 W
-----038038 020415Z /13-12

R 011526Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6707
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS LONDON 08645

USEEC
USOEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, UK, MNUC
SUBJECT: DR. WALTER MARSHALL CALLS U.S. NUCLEAR POLICY
MISGUIDED

1. DR. WALTER MARSHALL, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE U.K. ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY, TOLD A LONDON AUDIENCE OF PETROLEUM INVESTMENT ANALYSTS THAT U.S. POLICY TOWARD PLUTONIUM WOULD PROMOTE THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. MARSHALL ACCUSED THE UNITED STATES OF UNWITTINGLY FAVORING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF "PLUTONIUM MINES" AROUND THE WORLD. HE SAID THAT UNLESS THE FUEL NOW BEING IRRADIATED BY CONVENTIONAL NUCLEAR REACTORS WERE REPROCESSED AND THE PLUTONIUM SHIPPED TO BREEDER REACTORS FOR CONSUMPTION, THE PLUTONIUM IN IRRADIATED FUEL COULD BE STOLEN SAFELY "AFTER A CERTAIN PERIOD".

2. MARSHALL DECLINED TO SPECIFY THE EXACT NUMBER OF YEARS AFTER WHICH HE FELT PLUTONIUM IN SPENT FUEL COULD
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BE STOLEN WITHOUT RISK TO THE THIEF, BUT HE PROJECTED A SLIDE WHICH SUGGESTED THAT THE POINT LAY SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THREE AND THIRTY YEARS. WHETHER THE FUEL WERE LEFT IN STORAGE PONDS OR DEPOSITED DEEP UNDERGROUND, THE EFFECT EITHER WAY WOULD BE TO BUILD PLUTONIUM MINES - A DANGER WITH WHICH NATURE HAD NOT CONFRONTED MANKIND ORIGINALLY. MARSHALL THEN FOLLOWED WITH HIS WELL-KNOWN

REMINDER THAT BREEDER REACTORS COULD EITHER BE USED AS
INCINERATORS OR AS FURTHER PRODUCERS OF PLUTONIUM,
ACCORDING TO THE DESIGN OPTIONS CHOSEN. WITHOUT
BREEDERS, HE SAID, THE PROBLEM OF WHAT TO DO WITH THE
PLUTONIUM WILL GROW.

BREWSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, POLICIES, NUCLEAR ENERGY, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
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Draft Date: 01 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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